# The Long Sound of Vowel *u*

The letter *u* is unique among the five major vowels because it can represent one of two different long sounds: the sound /yoo/ as in the word *mule* and the sound /oo/ as in the word *dude*. Both of these two sounds are classified as long *u*, but because long *u* represents two different sounds, it must be marked in one of two ways. The letter *u* representing the sound /yoo/ as in *mule* is marked as any other long vowel would be marked:

*mule , cube , fume , cute.*
3 3 3 3

The letter *u* representing the sound /oo/ as in *dude* is double underlined to indicate the different sound it makes: *dude, rude, du/ty, crude.*
3 3 2 3

**The letter *u* is the only one of the five major vowels which represents not one but two long sounds.** Refer to these two separate long sounds that *u* represents as the first long sound and the second long sound of the letter *u*.

Because the first long sound of *u* represents two sounds /y/ and /oo/ blended together, students must count two sounds when accounting for the sounds the first long sound of *u* represents. The second long sound of *u* represents one sound /oo/.

**First Long Sound of *u*** = /yoo/ use (3) **Second Long Sound of *u*** = /oo/ rule (3)

**Lesson 228**

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | prune | use | rule | dude |
| 2. | jute | brute | dupe | pure |
| 3. | fluke | rule | cube | fume |
| 4. | mute | rude | Luke | dune |
| 5. | tube | plume | muse | duke |
| 6. | cute | prude | dupe | flume |
| 7. | ruse | tune | fuse | nude |
| 8. | mule | lute | rule | prude |
| 9. | dude | crude | use | fluke |
| 10. | cube | nuke | brute | lube |
| 11. | flute | uke | jute | rube |